

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S NATO SPEECH

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

1. REACTIONS BY THE FRENCH TO THE PRESIDENT'S NATO SPEECH
CAME IN A BACKGROUNDER FROM "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" FILED
BY AFP AT BRUSSELS MAY 29. THE OVERALL TONE AND SPECIFIC
POINTS MADE ARE STRIKINGLY AFFIRMATIVE, CONVEYED IN AN
ITEM-BY-ITEM COMMENTARY ON THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

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2. ON THE PRESIDENT'S EMPHASIS UPON FULL NATO MEMBERSHIP

WITHOUT QUALIFICATIONS OR RESERVATIONS, THE SOURCE NOTED THAT THIS WAS NOT ADDRESSED TO FRANCE, WHICH IS A FULL MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE ALTHOUGH FRANCE DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE INTEGRATED MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURES FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND BECAUSE OF "THE FACT THAT THE FRENCH NUCLEAR FORCE CANNOT BE INTEGRATED". THE SOURCE CONTINUED THAT THE GOF SHARES THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT ON THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE DEFENSE AND, IN FACT, HAS AUGMENTED THE DEFENSE PORTION OF THE FRENCH BUDGET.

3. ON ARMS STANDARDIZATION, FRANCE AGREED WITH THE

PRESIDENT ON THE DESIRABILITY OF MAKING EFFORTS TO THAT END, BUT FRANCE ACCENTUATED STANDARDIZATION WITHIN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT. WITH THE WILL TO DO SO, FINDING THE FRAMEWORK FOR EUROPEAN STANDARDIZATION WOULD BE EASY. AS FOR THE PROBLEM WHICH CREATION OF A STANDARDIZATION AGENCY WITHIN NATO WOULD POSE FOR FRANCE, THIS WAS NOT A "CURRENT PROBLEM".

4. ON TIES BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO, THE SOURCE HELD THAT FRANCE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF A FACTUAL SITUATION: US-SPANISH BASES MAKE AN EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO ATLANTIC DEFENSE.

5. ON PRESIDENT FORD'S VIEW THAT THE ALLIANCE IS MORE THAN A DEFENSE ORGANIZATION, THE SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT NATO'S BASIC PURPOSE IS ENSURING DEFENSE OF ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THAT ONE SHOULD BE WARY OF EXTENDING NATO'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY INTO OUTSIDE FIELDS.

6. ON CSCE, THE SOURCE HELD THAT STAGE III COULD TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF JULY, PROVIDED THAT THE VIENNA TALKS REACH A CONCLUSION WITHIN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS, WHICH IS "TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE". IN ANY CASE, THE SOURCE OPINED, THERE ARE ADVANTAGES IN TERMINATING THE WHOLE EXERCISE RAPIDLY. INGERSOLL

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